



172 Natural Resources  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
Ph: (517) 432-3381  
Fx: (517) 353-7961  
[www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu](http://www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu)

May 5, 2010

To: Representative Mike Huckleberry, Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, and Committee Members

Re: HB 5280 (Proos) and HB 5837 (Byrnes)

On behalf of the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA), please accept our written testimony regarding HB 5280 and HB 5837. MIFMA was developed in 2006 to promote and grow farmers markets across the state and increase their visibility to both producers and consumers. Our membership-based association offers information, networking and resources to farmers markets, farmers and vendors and friends of Michigan food and agriculture guided by a mission to advance farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products.

We are supportive of legislation that helps promote farmers markets and provides entrepreneurial opportunity for the small businesses that participate in farmers markets, often as part of their broader diversified marketing efforts. MIFMA is supportive of proposed exemptions that remove barriers for small-scale businesses wishing to expand to commercial production, provide opportunity for farmers and home processors, and facilitate small business development.

As requested by Representative John Proos' office and the Michigan Department of Agriculture, we are pleased to join a stakeholder subcommittee to represent our membership and work with others who hold diverse opinions and perspectives over the next month. It is our understanding that this will be a process that seeks consensus and provides feedback to Bill sponsors, Proos and Byrnes. Following this process, and in collaboration with other stakeholders, we hope to bring forward a piece of legislation that provides new opportunities for Michigan's farmers and farmers markets.

Sincerely,

Dru Montri  
MIFMA Association Manager

